

Meeting Notes

LGBTQ Steering Committee Quarterly Meeting

July 11, 2011

5:30-7 p.m.

DCPS Central Office

Overview:

DCPS has developed a comprehensive plan for supporting the DCPS Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) community of students, staff and families. The LGBTQ Steering Committee of students, school administration and staff, parents and community experts guides DCPS in the development and implementation of the plan. The Steering Committee met monthly from January-April 2011 and will now meet quarterly. This was the first quarterly meeting of the LGBTQ Steering Committee.

Attendance: one DCPS parent, five national and community experts, six school-based staff, three DCPS Central Office staff

Notes:

Issue	Comments
Purpose, goals and expectations	This Steering Committee was convened by the Office of Youth Engagement in the DCPS Central Office. Face-to-face meetings were held monthly from January to April of 2011, and Steering Committee members have served on various subcommittees. Beginning in July of 2011, the Steering Committee will meet quarterly. The goal of this meeting was for the Office of Youth Engagement to update the Steering Committee on its current implementation of the plan to create a welcoming and respectful community for LGBTQ students, staff and families in every school.
Plan Implementation Progress	DCPS OYE reviewed implementation of the “Plan to Create an Inclusive School Community” with Steering Committee Members. The review included implementation of each part of the plan; including the LGBTQ School Liaison Program, Capacity Building for School Based Administrators and Staff, School-wide Promotion of Positive Behavior, Maximizing Community Resources, Creating an Inclusive Work Environment, Family and Community Engagement, and Evaluation and Sustainability. Steering Committee members were given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions and include any further recommendations into this plan. DCPS participated in both Youth Pride and Capital Pride in 2011, Steering Committee

	<p>members suggested that DCPS consider participating in other festivals such as Black Pride next year and increase collaboration with other community organizations. Included in the discussion was the plan to explore further partnerships for plan implementation, Steering Committee members suggested that DCPS work to promote partnerships at the school level as well. Additionally, members suggested that school principals be given language to incorporate in their school level employee guide around creating safe and inclusive schools. The committee also discussed the plan for DCPS to create an LGBTQ School Liaison program in 20 schools in the Fall of 2011. Steering Committee members would like to be a part of the selection process for School Liaisons, who will implement this plan at the school level. Once the process for choosing the Liaisons is in place, DCPS will solicit suggestions from Steering Committee members for staff most suited to this role.</p>
Next Steps	<p>Next meeting of LGBTQ Steering Committee is October 11, 2011 at 5:30 pm.</p> <p>Plan implementation will continue through the 2011-2012 school year. Any additional information, resources, or ideas related to plan implementation should be sent to diana.bruce@dc.gov.</p> <p>For more information contact Diana Bruce, Director of Health and Wellness, at diana.bruce@dc.gov or 202-442-5103.</p>